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20 YEARS!
1987-2007
CLN
Painkiller Jane

Dynamite Adds Recurrent Pain

Several months after wrapping up their first ***Painkiller Jane*** limited series, Dynamite Entertainment has confirmed that they're about experience recurrent ***Pain*** on a monthly basis—and they hope that readers are ready not only to join them, but to enjoy the experience!

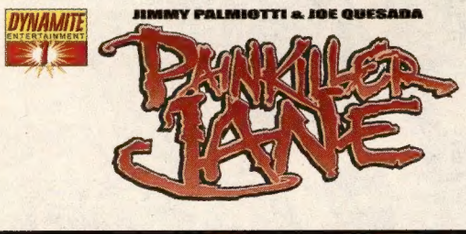
Beginning later this year, ***Painkiller Jane*** is returning in an ongoing series from *Jimmy Palmiotti & Joe Quesada,* who are joined by artist *Lee Moder.* And Dynamite is making it easy for fans old and new to sample a little ***Pain*** before committing to a monthly series, though: they're offering a special zero issue to kick off the series... and you can pick it for only two bits!

Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* explained how the quarter issue came about. "The timing of the new series launch on the Sci-Fi Channel and its proximity to Free Comic Book Day helped us decide on doing an introductory priced issue. It's a great way to reward existing fans and introduce this great character to new fans who want to try the book for the first time! We decided on this after we had discussed what Jimmy and Joe were going to do in this new series, and we were able to get *Lee Moder* back on art. With all these things going for it, we wanted ***Jane*** to reach as wide an audience as possible. The potential benefit is there, what with ***Jane*** making her TV debut as well around same time, and the book will be done and ready for the presses by the time this issue of ***CSN*** hits, so we're on target to have it out for FCBD with no problems…"

So just who *is* Painkiller Jane? Co-creator *Jimmy Palmiotti* offered a primer for fans who have yet to experience her high-caliber adventures. "At its most basic, ***Painkiller Jane*** chronicles the adventures of a woman who can get injured and will heal… *eventually*. But that's just one of the things that makes Jane unique. Jane is sort of a pit bull for her best friend Maureen ,who is one of New York's finest.

"Jane was once in the police academy with her best friend Maureen when they both got pulled out to take on an undercover operation. Both had little experience, and things went wrong really quickly; events ensued that changed Jane's life forever. Basically, she gained the power to heal quickly from her wounds—but in the process, she lost almost everything else that mattered to her. At times she's a complete and total mental mess, while at other times she is a cold hearted killer. At all times, though, she is one of the most interesting characters I have ever had the pleasure to continue working on."

Painkiller Jane's origins predate the debut of Dynamite Entertainment or Quesada & Palmiotti's founding of Marvel Knights. "We were creating characters for Event comics, our self-publishing company, and she was the perfect polar opposite of Ash, the squeaky clean superhero that launched our well-spent time in self publishing," Palmiotti said. "Joe and I felt the character was original and unique and still feel that way."



PALMIOTTI - QUESADA - MODER - GARCIA

What sort of stories do Palmiotti & Quesada have in the works for Jane in her new series? "The stories we have in mind for her have everything to do with the character's personality," Palmiotti said. "Readers can expect nothing like they've read before. These are hardcore action-driven tales that really walk the tightrope at times as they deal with the exploits of a character who is a little bit of a psycho.

"The next arc has some of the most 'out-there' ideas thrown into a simple structured tale… that's the way we like things. There is nothing more boring to me these days than the amazing amount of cookie-cutter spandex superhero crap on the stands week after week. I would love to think that a decent percentage of the readership is dying for something different in their entertainment diet—and ***Painkiller Jane*** is just that.

"The first story arc in the ongoing series deals with terrorists, bisexuality, friendships that cross the line, and people from other countries trying to leave their mark," Palmiotti continued. "A lot of things are covered in these few issues…we like to give the reader their money's worth. The title of the series is 'Everything Explodes,' and it lives up to its name. The teaser in ***Painkiller Jane #0*** gives you a glimpse."

What sort of stories work best for Jane--pitting her against real-world challenges like terrorists, or super-villain stories? "I think we like to keep the book realistic and not feature super villains so much as people who think they are doing the right thing when they're not. it appears we see these kinds of people every day in the media, and they are a hell of a lot more evil than anything we can make up. Personally, I am not interested in super villains, because I don't feel this is a *superhero* book…it's a book about a character who has a unique ability that can help her do her job—it's simple as that!"

Will any other Quesada-Palmiotti characters make an appearance in the series, or is Ash being held for something else? "Not in this series—no Ash, Kid Death and Fluffy, or so on," Palmiotti replied. "Not yet, at least. Soon, maybe—but not just yet. It's Jane's time to shine. We *did* have the 22 Brides in a dream sequence in the last miniseries, but it seemed fitting for them to appear there. We haven't come up with a story that works with Ash quite yet."

Artist *Lee Moder* first joined Palmiotti & Quesada for last year's ***Painkiller Jane*** limited series; what led them to decide he was the right artist for the ongoing series as well? "Look at the last series he did with us—that was hands down some of the finest storytelling out there, and real competition with the big guys, if you ask me," Palmiotti said. "I know everyone has their favorites, but Lee's better than anyone on any Top Ten list right now. I am talking *storytelling* here, not the amount of crosshatching an artist can do. I personally could not be happier to have Lee on board again…he really made me look good on the last outing with Jane!

Will Moder be able to keep up with the demand of a monthly series, or will he alternate arcs with other artists? "So far Lee is the man. If he needs more time, we will get someone else—but God forbid that talent search!" Palmiotti said with a laugh. "I am the pickiest guy on earth these days, and I'm too personally attached to Jane to just hand it over to anyone. I would rather wait and get what we want than rush anyone."

Dynamite is working ahead to ensure that the series stays on schedule. "We're taking it one arc at a time, making each and every appearance a true event, but are shooting for monthly to every six weeks," Barrucci said. "We know that we were late with the last series, and actually held back soliciting this series to get ahead and to tie in with the Sci Fi launch.

"The opening storyline for Jane is four issues, counting the story in #0 that kicks it all off, and it introduces a new character – the Infidel. We've discussed the follow-up with Jimmy and Joe and have plans to continue ***Painkiller Jane*** with more events this year and next, for sure."

While *Joe Quesada* doesn't have much time left over from his job as Marvel's editor-in-chief, he is managing to co-plot the series with Palmiotti. "Once we get a story idea and go over the outline, Joe trusts me to run with it," Palmiotti said. "I manage to stick about 70% to the outline, but at times, Jane sort of run the book, taking the story into some unexpected twists and turns. It's the good part of the writing process, really."

Painkiller Jane #0 will appear at nearly the same time that the character's television series, starring *Kristanna Loken* in the title role, launches on the Sci Fi Channel. "We're scheduled for twenty-two episodes on Friday nights starting in April," Palmiotti said, "filling the old ***Battlestar Galactica*** slot. Jane is part of an undercover government group that tracks down 'neuros'—people who have what appear to be unusual powers. The show is a blast; right now, I'm writing an episode that deals with people who grew up reading comics.

"I'm working with the writers as a consultant and am in constant contact with everyone involved, all the way from Sci Fi to Insight Film Studios, Starz media all the way up to the star of the show…they all have been great at involving the creators as much as possible."

Painkiller Jane #0, a 25¢ comic, is scheduled for early May release to coincide with Free Comic Book Day. ***Painkiller Jane #1,*** a $3.50 comic with variant covers by *Ron Adrian, Joe PRado, Georges Jeanty, & Amanda Conner,* follows in mid-June.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

A Multitude of Questions from One Image

In late January, DC released this powerful image with no caption other than a subject line that said, "Let the battle cry be heard in the land, a shout of great destruction."

So what's going on here? What is behind this great destruction, and exactly which heroes are depicted here? DC wouldn't say anything about the art or what yet-unannounced project it might herald. Fans were buzzing as soon as the image was released, and DCU Executive Editor *Dan DiDio* didn't do much to end the buzz with his enigmatic responses to a few questions for ***Newsarama*** readers.

First off, DiDio advised readers that "all [of the assembled characters] are from the same Earth. But let me say, as the sighs of relief and the gasps of disapproval die down, some of these images are *literal* and some are *symbolic*, I leave it to you to figure out which is which... There *is* a literal and symbolic reason for the positioning and clothing of our heroes."

When will readers know what the image is all about? "Events reflected in this picture will play throughout the year and hopefully things will make sense enough so that you can connect the dots as they occur," DiDio said.

Why is Donna in her Wonder Girl uniform? "The color is important key to her future and her allegiance."

Is that Ray Palmer's arm extending from the rubble? "It's the Atom's arm, all right—the question is, is he climbing out or sinking in?"

Why is Mary Marvel in the picture—isn't she suppose to be de-powered in the ***Trials of Shazam*** series? "These pictures reflect events yet to come, so it sounds to me like there is a story with Mary that is about to be told."

Why is Batman dressed so differently and why does he carry a sword; is it the same Batman whose exploits we're currently reading in ***Batman*** and ***Detective?*** "The image is symbolic in nature, and it is indeed the Batman you are reading now. As for the sword, it's not the first time he used one."

Why are so many of the characters looking up? "Something coming down from the skies perhaps?"

Whose flight ring is on the ground? "A Legionnaire's, of course!"

What's the device near Max Lord's body, and from where does it come? "Not really sure of its origin but it looks like it was built by the King himself. All I know is that it can light the road to hell or salvation, depending on your point of view."

Why are all the dead characters melting/phasing into the ground? "Symbolic in nature—the ground gave up the bodies but not *completely* so as to confuse anyone that these characters might return."

Why isn't Superboy (Conner) among the dead bodies, now that it's been confirmed that he isn't Supernova? "Superboy isn't Supernova?! Damn, I've been waiting for the collected edition of **52** to read it and now you just ruined it for me!" DiDio joked, adding, "If I were to guess, we were probably going through all our major deaths alphabetically and just ran out of space after Q."

And most importantly—since the Scarlet Speedster is definitely blue-eyed and Barry Allen was blue-eyes, could this be Barry Allen as the Flash? "If that *was* Barry, shouldn't he be lying on the ground with the dead instead of standing with the heroes?" DiDio asked rhetorically.

Does the positioning of the characters have meaning? "Physical separation can represent emotional separation or distance. It also can represent separate storylines. Where you stand and how you stand can determine your ultimate future. There are no accidents in positioning, body, or gaze. Light and shadow also play a role."

While DiDio wasn't willing to give away too many specifics, he *did* say that "we have some great stories heading your way, and I think it would be a disaster if we gave them away now. I'm counting down to when we can finally talk about this—but until then, keep the ideas and speculation coming. After all, getting there is half the fun!"

Look for more info about this image—and the series that goes with it—in upcoming issues of ***CSN!***

Boys Sizzles at Dynamite

Two weeks ago, DC Comics surprised everyone with their announcement that *Garth Ennis & Darick Robertson's* ***Boys*** series, which offers a cynical look at not-so-heroic superheroes, was ending its WildStorm run after six issues.

Some were worried that this might mark the end of the series, but that's most definitely not the case: DC released the book to the creators to enable them to take it to another publisher. And that's just what they've done: Dynamite Entertainment has landed the rights for ***Boys,*** and will be continuing the series where it left off in its WildStorm run, as well as offering a collected edition of the first six issues.

Look for more news regarding ***Boys'*** new home—and Dynamite's plans for the series—in next week's ***CSN***!

Titans Test AB Positive!

Geoff Johns has announced his departure from ***Teen Titans***—but the book won't be writer-less. DC has already enlisted Adam Beechen to take over the book once Johns wraps up his current "Titans East" story arc—and he'll actually join the book even earlier than that, since he'll be co-writing the second half of the "Titans East" arc with the departing Johns.

Beechen, who's already familiar with one Titan due to his work as writer of ***Robin,*** explained how the assignment came about. "As I remember it, in the late summer of 2006, I got a phone message from Geoff: 'Call me when you get a chance.' I left him a return message, then it was a day or two before I heard back from Geoff again, and I was in a blind panic...I thought he'd maybe read one of my ***Robin*** plots and I'd inadvertently ruined the DC Universe or something.

"But that wasn't it, and when he finally reached me, it was to tell me he was thinking of leaving ***Titans,*** date unknown, and to ask me if I had any interest in taking over for him. I told him I'd be honored to even be in the discussion, and he told me to sit tight,

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and he'd get back to me.

"Then, a few weeks later, I got a call from *Titans* Editor *Eddie Berganza*, asking me basically the same question. Yes, yes, I'm interested! He, too, told me to sit tight until Geoff's schedule crystallized and he had something definite to tell me. More time passed. Finally, as I was on my way home for Thanksgiving, I got a flurry of phone calls, from Eddie and Geoff, saying it was on, it was happening, and the offer was a concrete, definite thing. I said yes immediately."

While his run as writer may be in its formative stages, Beechen is no stranger to ***Teen Titans.*** "I have a very clear memory of buying the first issue of the Wolfman/Pérez ***New Teen Titans*** from my local convenience store. My comics-buying was more haphazard back then, so I didn't pick it up again until #10, and then I was a regular reader more or less until George left the Baxter version of the title — and I came back to it when he returned for the second 'Who Is Wonder Girl?' storyline. And I've avidly followed the current series since it began..."

Beechen also has some expertise with the *other* version of the Titans, since he's written three episodes of the ***Teen Titans Go!*** animated series. Are there any similarities in the two versions of the team? "The similarities are superficial, but important: Robin is driven, Starfire is innocent, Beast Boy is silly, and so on. The characters in the cartoon are more broad-stroke, whereas the comic can get in greater depth. The cartoon was designed as a romp, largely, although it occasionally, and brilliantly, went deeper. I don't know that my work on the book will draw too much on my experience with the animated series — I've been a fan of the book right along, so most of my treatment of the characters will come out of that."

Which characters are at the core of ***Teen Titans,*** as Beechen sees it? "Of this team, as currently composed, Robin and Wonder Girl. Robin always seems to gravitate to the center of any Titans lineup — the other characters naturally tend to look to him for leadership...which might be something I want to explore. I think Wonder Girl is the emotional centerpiece of the team — she's often the most expressive. And Wonder Girl and Robin have the bond of their respective kinds of closeness to Conner — and to me, that threesome was at the heart of Geoff's longtime lineup for the group."

While Johns will no longer be writing the book after the completion of "Titans East," he will continue to influence the direction of the series for a bit longer. " He had the overarching idea for the story arc that was to follow 'Titans East,'" Beechen explained, "and I'm going to be writing that as well, but because of other considerations, that's been pushed back a few issues. So Geoff will continue to be a presence, as far as the book goes, for a while yet. After that, I'll be on my own for real."

As to what he has in mind for the team, "Geoff's left a lot of great possibilities open to us... We're going to be building on his concepts and exploring some of the newer characters he's brought to the team in greater detail. After that, it's too soon to say until I feel like I've really nailed the stories, but yes, I definitely have some big plans in terms of villains that I'm excited to get to, not to mention story points for our characters. I sat down the other day and put down in one place all the basic ideas I have, some in great detail, others just sketches, and if nothing were to change at all, I'd have enough stories to reach issue #75! So my enthusiasm level is pretty high!"

When Johns leaves ***Teen Titans,*** artist *Tony Daniel* will also depart the series; look for news on his replacement in upcoming issues of ***CSN.***

RED SONJA STATUE
INSPIRED BY THE ART OF
JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER
DYNAMITE ENTERTAINMENT 13
LINSNER
THIS INCREDIBLE STATUE STANDS OVER 7" TALL!
THE ART OF JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER BROUGHT TO LIFE!
Inspired by the Rare Retailer Incentive cover for Red Sonja #13, this brand-new Red Sonja Statue has brought the art of Joseph Michael Linsner to life!
His second drawing of Red Sonja for the Dynamite comic book series is also the rarest, and this statue is sure to be in RED HOT demand as Tom and Joy Snyder have captured every curve, every detail, every "asset" of Linser's art and the She-Devil with a Sword!
Stands over 7" tall, this brand new Red Sonja collector's statue will be strictly limited!
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This Comics Deal Is Sealed With a KISS

For the third time, the kabuki-esque rock group is about to venture into comic shops. Readers with long memories might recall Marvel's KISS books from the late 1970s; more recent recruits into the KISS Army no doubt fondly remember Dark Horse's KISS comics from a few years ago.

This time, though, KISS is joining forces with *Scott Rosenberg's* Platinum Studios to create a comic—and a KISS collectible—targeted at fans with deep pockets. Not only will the oversized **: *Destroyer Edition*** of the new ***KISS 4K*** be one of the largest comics ever published, it will also be one of the most expensive at $50.

Platinum editor *Jim McLauchlin* acknowledges that "the ***Destroyer Edition*** is absolutely a novelty item," said McLauchlin. "But if there's one thing that thirty years worth of KISS merchandising has proven, it's that there's fans that *love* this stuff. There are KISS collectors who have all sorts of off-the-wall items. This is yet another one for whoever chooses to venture there."

Fans on a budget won't have to wait too long for a copy they can afford, however. "The exact same book will be available in standard comic format with 32 story pages and 44 pages total in May for $3.99. With issue #2 and forward, we're at $2.99..."

KISS members *Gene Simmons* and *Paul Stanley* will be actively involved in promoting the series—but it's not just KISS that will make the comic successful, as Stanley sees it. "We got a great team with the Platinum people. We got a great writer with *Richard Sprague*, who really has never done a comic before. *Kevin Crosley*, who did the art, never did comics. But they are all people who understand what KISS is all about. So we're here to take it to another level...

Was the new comic based on KISS's own concepts? " Unholy was our idea about a malevolence that is kind of a next door neighbor to *Steve Ditko's* Nightmare from Doctor Strange—maybe he also has a little Baron Mordo and some Eternal Vishanti with some Hoary Hosts of Hoggoth..."

KISS 4K is more than just one storyline. "This is a twelve-issue arc," Stanley said. "The story is going to continue on. I have to tell you the stuff that's being written now is so heavy... There are worlds to be both conquered and saved."

KISS 4K: The Destroyer Edition is scheduled for April release. The more affordably-priced standard edition follows a month later. Further down the line, the company plans to add a second title, ***KISS Girls,*** which features four teenagers who "talk about shopping and are about as dysfunctional as anyone until something happens to them and they get to wear the KISS makeup and look good doing it," Simmons said.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in May

Buffy's incapacitated, which offers Amy the witch the perfect opportunity to lay siege with an army of the undead. That means it's all up to Willow—and you'll see what happens next in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #3*** by *Joss Whedon & Georges Jeanty.*

Kim Sung-Jae & Kim Byung-Jin chronicle the story of a young man saved from death by his mother, banished by his people, hunted by his brother, and tortured by the demons within in ***Chunchu: The Genocide Fiend.***

The li'l bird that could is the subject of the latest syroco statue inspired by *Charles Schulz's* acclaimed comic strip. ***Classic Peanuts Characters #8: Woodstock,*** limited to 1200 pieces, is packages in a tin box with a booklet and a button.

Tim Truman & Paul Lee offer a direct follow-up to *Robert E. Howard's* "The Scarlet Citadel" in ***Conan #40,*** which gives readers an inside look into Conan's years as King of Aquilonia.

Dark Horse continues its line of ***Hellboy Animated*** merchandising with their ***Kate Corrigan Mini-Bust*** and ***Hellboy Animated Rubber Stamp Kit.***

Gary Panter's ***Jimbo*** is the inspiration for the ***Jimbo Limited Edition Vinyl Figure,*** a 2500-copy limited edition figure that which features a fabric costume of tartan loincloth and tattered t-shirt.

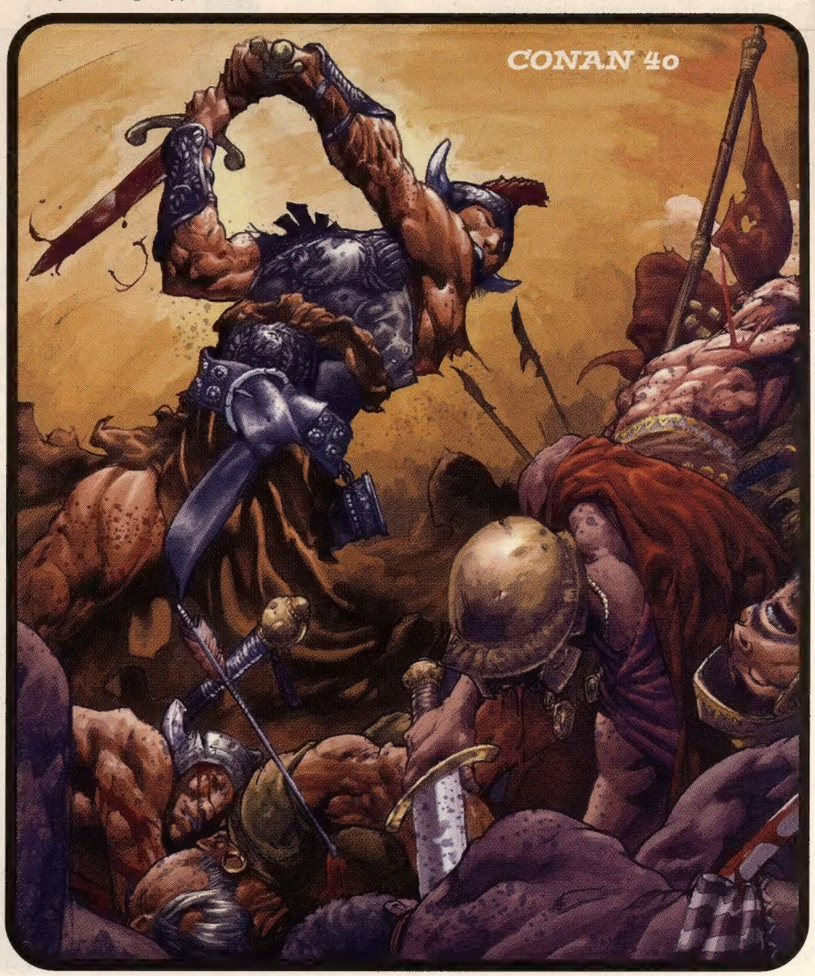
ReelArt Studios turns to *Frank Cho* for inspiration—and the result is their ***Frank Cho's Babe & Ape Statue,*** featuring Cho's good girl art at its 3-D finest.

Eric Joyner explores the post-WWII boom in tin toys in ***Robots & Donuts,*** a 176-page trade paperback that celebrates the incredible diversity of tin toy robots from the 1940s and 1950s.

Rob Williams & Michel LaCombe offer an all-new adventure set in the dangerous underworld of the war between the Empire and the Alliance in "The Ahakista Gambit," a five-part story that begins in ***Star Wars: Rebellion #6.*** The star of the series is Wyl Tarson, a lieutenant to one of the most powerful gangsters in the galaxy... until he falls under the power of his employer Raze, who has learned that Wyl is really a Rebel spy.

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***Aliens Omnibus Volume One,*** a 384-page trade paperback reprinting *Mark Verheiden's* first three long-unavailable ***Aliens*** series, featuring art by *Mark Nelson, Denis Beauvais, & Sam Kieth;*
- ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Omnibus Volume One,*** collecting ***The Origin, Viva Las Buffy, Slayer Interrupted; All's Fair,*** and more in a hefty trade paperback that kicks off Dark Horse's comprehensive collection of all the various ***Buffy*** specials, oneshots, and miniseries;
- ***Chronicles of Conan Volume Twelve: The Beast King of Abombi & Other Stories,*** collecting ten more issues of Conan tales from the Marvel run, courtesy of *Roy Thomas, John Buscema, Ernie Chan, & Sal Buscema;*
- ***Dwight T. Albatross's The Goon Noir,*** collecting the all-star-creative-team miniseries;
- ***The Great Adventure of the Dirty Pair,*** a 280-page manga-sized collection of sexy adventure by *Haruka Takachicho & Yoshikazu Yasuhiko;*
- ***Gunsmith Cats Burst Volume Two,*** continuing Dark Horse's repackaging of *Kenichi Sonoda's* signature series;
- ***Little Lulu Volume 16: A Handy Kid,*** collecting more all-ages entertainment by *John Stanley & Irving Tripp;*
- ***Scarlet Traces: The Great Game,*** collecting the second post-***War of the Worlds*** limited series by *Ian Edginton & D'Israeli;*
- ***Star Wars 30th Anniversary Collection Volume 5: Light & Dark,*** offering another assortment of out-of-print Dark Horse graphic novels in an affordable compendium; and
- ***Usagi Yojimbo Volume 21: The Mother of Mountains,*** collecting *Stan Sakai's* tale of a tyrant's lust for wealth and the threat it poses to an innocent village.



March's Top Twenty Comics

52 WEEK #44

Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JAN070274 $2.50)

52 WEEK #45

Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JAN070275 $2.50)

52 WEEK #46

Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JAN070276 $2.50)

52 WEEK #47

Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)
(DC JAN070277 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

There's a World War a'coming... and you can see its approach in the pages of DC's hit weekly series.

Why Should You Care?

The finale of *52* is mere weeks away... but don't think of it as an *end* so much as the *beginning* of something much bigger and even more exciting. What's happening here is going to reshape the DC Universe in ways you can't imagine... yet!

ACTION COMICS #848

Geoff Johns & Richard Donner (W); Adam Kubert (A)
(DC JAN070267 $2.99)

ACTION COMICS 3D EDITION #848

Geoff Johns & Richard Donner (W); Adam Kubert (A)
(DC JAN070268 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the final part of the "Last Son" storyline, Superman travels to the Phantom Zone, a bizarre realm that's so extra-dimensional that DC enlisted 3D master *Ray Zone* to take the tale into the third dimension.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Richard Donner reinterpret General Zod in this story arc, bringing a sense of gravitas to a character who's been underplayed in comics for decades.

ALL STAR SUPERMAN #7

Grant Morrison (W); Frank Quitely (A)
(DC OCT060165 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Superman's faced all sorts of unexpected challenges... but he never envisioned having to confront a twisted version of himself! Get ready to meet All Star Bizarro!

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison, who has made ***All Star Superman*** the must-read Man of Steel title, was born to tell the tale of Superman's doofus doppelganger—and now he gets the chance!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #539

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Ron Garney (A)
(Marvel DEC062291 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Considering everything that has happened to Peter Parker in the past few months, it's no wonder that his mood is a little somber. And what better way to show his new attitude than with a return to his all-black look?

Why Should You Care?

If Spidey's wearing black to reflect his dark mood in the light of what's happened so far in ***Civil War,*** then he'd better have plenty of backup black costumes in the closet, because his life is going to get a whole lot worse before it gets better—and you're going to want to see what calamities are yet to befall Marvel's longest-suffering hero!...

ARMY @ LOVE #1

Rick Veitch (W); Rick Veitch & Gary Erskine (A)
(Vertigo/DC JAN070363 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When a New Jersey National Guard unit finds itself indefinitely deployed to the Middle East, where they engage in one war after another, the results are part battle action, part soap opera, and part social satire—and it's all coming to you from *Rick Veitch,* a man who has made an art form of pushing the envelop.

Why Should You Care?

Think *MASH* for the 21st Century, with extra doses of irreverence and cynicism, and you'll have an idea what to expect from this sardonic series.

BPRD: GARDEN OF SOULS #1

Mike Mignola & John Arcudi (W); Guy Davis (A)
(Dark Horse JAN070054 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Abe Sapien enjoys his time in the spotlight in this five-parter that brings him face to face with figures from his past, while sending the BPRD on an adventurous odyssey to the South China Sea and into the jungles of Indonesia.

Why Should You Care?

ZThe release of the new ***Hellboy*** animated adventure pushes Big Red and his offbeat allies into the media spotlight once again—and that means oodles of eager readers for this new ***Hellboy***-inspired spinoff miniseries.

BRAVE AND THE BOLD #2

Mark Waid (W); George Pérez & Bob Wiacek (A)
(DC JAN070284 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The quest that brought Batman and Green Lantern to the gambling planet of Ventura continues in this issue as Green Lantern enlists the aid of Supergirl, while Batman joins forces with Blue Beetle, to get to the bottom of a case that has surprising links to the Rann-Thanagar War.

Why Should You Care?

zBatman... Green Lantern... Supergirl... Blue Beetle... and they're all illustrated by the legendary *George Pérez!* Sign us up!

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER #1

Joss Whedon (W); Georges Jeanty (A)
(Dark Horse JAN070051 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of Hellmouth's destruction, there's a virtual legion of Slayers defending the world against necromantic evil. But what's going on with Buffy, Dawn, and the rest of the Scoobies? Find out here!

Why Should You Care?

After a couple of years off, ***Buffy*** creator *Joss Whedon* launches Season Eight—not as a television series, but as an ongoing comic! No pointless wheel-spinning here—this is the real deal, courtesy of the man who made it all happen for all those years on WB!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #25

Ed Brubaker (W); Steve Epting (A)
(Marvel DEC062304 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What does the future hold for Captain America? Is it possible that the Marvel Universe may see the fall of the Star-Spangled Avenger? Find out in this landmark issue!

Why Should You Care?

The buzz surrounding *Cap #25* gets more intense with each passing day as everyone wonders if Marvel would really consider killing off their most veteran hero. Whether they do or not, you're gonna want to see what happens!

CHANCE IN HELL HC

Gilbert Hernandez (W/A)

(Fantagraphics JAN073615 $16.95)

What's the Scoop?

From her less-than-humble beginnings as an abandoned orphan girl to her salvaged childhood and her happily married life, this graphic novel follows a lost soul as she struggles to come to terms with life's many changes.

Why Should You Care?

Gilbert Hernandez, one of comics' masters of characterization and local color, returns to his roots with this original three-act graphic novel.

CIVIL WAR: THE CONFESSION

Brian Bendis (W); Alex Maleev (A)

(Marvel NOV068200 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The *Civil War* may be over, but nothing is the way that it was before Marvel's superhero world was split asunder. Now two of the heroes most affected by the hostilities get together one last time for a meeting that will resonate through the Marvelverse.

Why Should You Care?

You didn't *really* think that the war was going to wrap up on the final page of *Civil War #7*, did you? This effects of this war will be felt for quite some time—and no Marvel hero will be immune to its impact, as this special underscores.

DYNAMO 5 #1

Jay Faerber (W); Mahmud Asrar (A)

(Image JAN071918 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

One of the world's most beloved heroes has fallen at the hands of his enemies... and in the aftermath of his death, his widow discovers that there are five children born from her husband's previously-unknown philandering. Now she hopes to pull the five offspring together to continue their father's legacy...

Why Should You Care?

Jay Faerber, whose *Noble Causes* has proven him to be a master of super-family drama, turn his attention to an even more dysfunctional family in this story of half-siblings who have the power... but do they have the will?

GRIFTER/ MIDNIGHTER #1

Chuck Dixon (W); Ryan Benjamin (A)

(WildStorm/DC JAN070342 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (JAN073605 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Grifter and Midnighter are given the same assignment—with a key difference. One of them is charged with a license to kill, while the other is dispatched with a duty to protect. Wonder if this might lead to a conflict?...

Why Should You Care?

Two of WildStorm's hardest-hitting heroes are united with one of comics' most skilled action-adventure writers, *Chuck Dixon*—you can bet this one's going to pack plenty of punch!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #7

Brad Meltzer (W); Ed Benes (A)

(DC JAN070296 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Six months after the membership hunt began, the team comes together in this landmark issue.

Why Should You Care?

Brad Meltzer & Ed Benes have returned the Justice League to their well-deserved place as comics' pre-eminent super-team—and now all the speculation comes to an end as they finally reveal just who the members of that super-team are!

MARVEL ZOMBIES/ ARMY OF DARKNESS #1

John Layman (W); Fabiano Neves (A)

(Marvel JAN072384 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Ash has faced off against a whole host of creepy freaks—but he's never had to do battle with a world filled with super-powered zombies... until now!

Why Should You Care?

Sam Raimi's intrepid hero is transported to a twisted version of the Marvelverse just as the zombie nightmare begins—and that makes this one a must-read for fans of both series, since what happens here impacts continuity in *Army of Darkness* and *Marvel Zombies.*

MIGHTY AVENGERS #1

Brian Bendis (W); Frank Cho (A)

(Marvel JAN072385 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet the newest high-profile Avengers team—and see which well-known adversary from their past returns—in the first issue of this new series.

Why Should You Care?

Sure, it's a new ongoing *Avengers* title, but even more importantly, it's a new ongoing series featuring art by *Frank Cho*—and that's plenty of reason to pick this one up!

SAVAGE TALES #1

Ron Marz, Leah Moore, John Reppion, Luke Lieberman, Michael Avon Oeming, & Mike Raicht (W); Adriano Batista; Pablo Marcos, Stjepan Sejic, Matt Smith, & Pere (A)

(Dynamite JAN073508 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Dynamite unveils its first ongoing anthology series, drawing its inspiration from the pulp-weird-fiction roots of *Robert E. Howard, H.P. Lovecraft, & Clark Ashton Smith.*

Why Should You Care?

Not only is Dynamite drawing its source material from some of fantasy's best-known names, they're also enlisting A-level comics talent to make this a book worthy of the *Savage Tales* monicker.

STEPHEN COLBERT'S TEK JANSEN #1

John Layman, Tom Peyer, & Jim Massey (W); Scott Chantler (A)

(Oni JAN073789 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Tek Jansen, star of the critically acclaimed, yet unpublished prose novel by *Stephen Colbert*, comes to comics in this zany limited series.

Why Should You Care?

With *The Colbert Report* serving as an ongoing publicity engine for this SF-adventure spoof, there should be no shortage of readers for this *Tek* report.

STEPHEN KING'S DARK TOWER: GUNSLINGER BORN #2

Robin Furth & Peter David (W); Jae Lee & Richard Isanove (A)

(Marvel JAN072346 $3.99; also available in a signed edition (JAN073603 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Targeted by the evil sorcerer Marten, Roland is forced to flee Gilead for the safety of Hambry. But "safety" may be a deceptive term, as Marten's agents are awaiting his arrival there...

Why Should You Care?

The previously-untold origin of Roland Deschain continues only in this limited series that no *Stephen King* fan will want to miss.

WONDER WOMAN #6

Jodi Picoult (W); Drew Johnson & Ray Snyder (A)

(DC JAN070320 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Special Agent Diana Prince of the Department of Metahuman Affairs is given an impossible assignment: capture Wonder Woman! But that's just the beginning of her problems...

Why Should You Care?

At long last, *Wonder Woman* gets back on track with a monthly run written by best-selling author *Jodi Picoult* that will pave the way for a major miniseries in upcoming months.

FYI: Great Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #66

(TwoMorrows JAN073982 $6.95)

The career of Golden & Silver Age artist *Bob Powell* is spotlighted in this issue, which includes a look at his short-lived Marvel Comics career.

MASTERS OF COMIC ART HC

(Hermes JAN074122 $49.99)

MASTERS OF COMIC ART SC

(Hermes JAN074121 $29.99)

This fascinating collection features interviews with the most important comic book visionaries in the 20th Century, including *Jerry Siegel, Joe Shuster, Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson, Jack Kirby, Carl Barks, Walt Kelly,* and *Harvey Kurtzman.*

WIZARD EXTRA VOL 1: DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARIES SC

(Wizard JAN073278 $19.99)

Love those director's commentary bonuses offered on some of your favorite DVDs? Then you're bound to enjoy these "director's commentaries" from some of the field's top writers and artists as they discuss some of their most popular works.

Hot Commodities:

March's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN THROUGH THE AGES BOXED SET

(DC Direct AUG060311 $49.99)

Features First Appearance Batman, Golden Age Batman, Super Friends Batman, & Classic Batman, along with a special 48-page comic, produced just for this set, reprinting some of Batman's classic adventures.

BETTIE PAGE STATUE

(Dark Horse FEB070103 $124.99)

Tony Cipriano does the honors on this 10" statue featuring the 20th Century's most beloved pinup queen.

CAPTAIN MARVEL 1960S STATUE

(Bowen OCT064420 $160.00)

CAPTAIN MARVEL 1970S STATUE

(Bowen OCT064421 $160.00)

Just in time for his resurrection in the pages of ***Civil War: The Return,*** Bowen Designs offers a pair of Mar-Vell sculptures—one depicting his classic green and white garb, the other his better-known red and blue costume.

CLASSIC DC CHARACTERS #1: SUPERMAN

(Dark Horse NOV060077 $49.99)

The rugged look of the Golden Age Superman is captured in this rough-hewn syroco-style statue that invokes the spirit of toys from a bygone time.

Collected Cool: March's Best Reprint Volumes

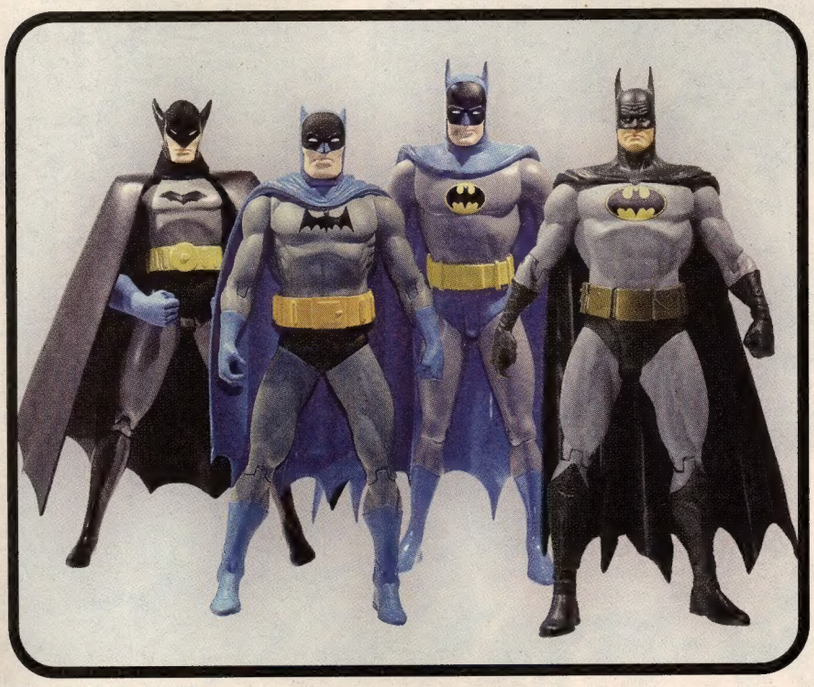
BATMAN: SUNDAY CLASSICS 1943-1946 HC

(Sterling FEB073729 $14.95)

BATMAN: THE DAILIES 1943-1946 HC

(Sterling FEB073728 $20.00)

These long-out-of-print strips return in ultra-affordable editions from the same company that gave us last year's handsome collection of ***Superman*** Golden Age strips.



MARVEL MASTERWORKS: GOLDEN AGE USA COMICS VOL 1 HC

(Marvel JAN072426 $59.99)

This hefty 280-page collection offers four of the hardest-to-find superhero books from Marvel's Golden Age. *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Joe Simon, Syd Shores, Basil Wolverton, Mike Sekowsky...* they're all in here, along with many other comics legends, in this compendium of ***USA Comics #s 1-4.***

SHOWCASE PRESENTS HAWKMAN VOL 1 TP

(DC DEC060241 $16.99)

The Silver Age return of the Winged Wonder is spotlighted in this ***Showcase Presents*** volume that offers 500+ pages of Hawkman material from ***Brave & Bold, Mystery in Space,*** and ***Hawkman.***

SUPERMAN/BATMAN: THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD

(DC DEC060196 $19.99)

The World's Finest Super-team is celebrated in this collection of stories from the past fifty years. Thrill to classic Superman-Batman team-up tales from the Silver Age to the present, all behind a stunning *Alex Ross* cover.

Check 'Em Out:

Books You Should Be Reading

BOMB QUEEN III #1

(Image JAN071920 $3.50)

Jimmie Robinson brings back the Bomb Queen in a new limited series that pits the malevolent villain against Blacklight. This time around, there's a third player in this conflict: Shadowhawk's own Rebound. What brings the two of them to New Port City? Find out in this comic that makes the bad gal the star!

24 HOUR COMICS DAY HIGHLIGHTS 2006 TP

(About JAN073296 $11.99)

Features the best stories from some of the 1200+ artists in 17 countries who took part in 2006, plus coverage of the event.

GAMEKEEPER #1

(Virgin JAN073921 $2.99)

Andy Diggle scripts director *Guy Ritchie's* story of a man whose past comes back to the forefront when armed killers invade the English country estate where he serves as gamekeeper. What they don't know, though, is that his past holds some dark and deadly secrets that makes him a more than capable match for their murderous ways.

JEFFERY BROWN'S FEEBLE ATTEMPTS #1

(Top Shelf JAN073896 $5.00)

Collecting some favorite *Jeffrey Brown* anthology and mini-comic stories, ***Feeble Attempts*** is densely packed with autobiographical musings, political jabs, Jesus, superheroes, funny job stories, childhood goofiness, and even a little adolescent relationship drama.

SHEENA PREVIEW

(Devil's Due JAN073554 $0.99)

The classic jungle heroine is reinvented for the 21st Century—and you can get a first look at the revamped Sheena here!

STRANGERS IN PARADISE #89

(Abstract JAN073298 $2.99)

Does the epic tale of Francine and Katchoo have a happy ending? We're two months away from knowing the answer to that question, but we do know one thing for sure: *Terry Moore* has made the final issues of this long-running human interest drama one of the most fascinating stories on the comic shop racks!

WILDCATS #2

(WildStorm/DC JAN070347 $2.99)

Grant Morrison & Jim Lee continue their revamp of WildStorm's premiere superteam with a tale that harkens back to Steranko's finest SHIELD moments.

WildStorm's deadliest heroes are up against
their most dangerous opponents ever...each other.
Story by
CHUCK DIXON
Art by
RYAN BENJAMIN
Grifter
MIDNIGHTER
An explosive 6-issue limited series
March 2007
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